

The Bulletin.

A thorough investigation is to be made into the cause of the burning of the Southern hotel.

The employees of the Illinois senate presented Gov. Shuman with a fine gold-headed cane on Thursday.

Gov. CULLOM's penitentiary commissioners have filed their bonds, received their commissions and gone to Joliet.

The Louisiana commission sits up all night until five o'clock in the morning, but it has as yet gained very little light on the gubernatorial question.

BLAINE is not conciliated after all, it seems. With the man of Maine and the Methodist church arrayed against him, Hayes will have a hot time of it.

The Illinois house has passed a bill to allow railroad trains to run through cities and towns at the rate of eight miles an hour. Four and six miles an hour is the prescribed speed now.

Two bills to appropriate fifty thousand dollars for the completion of the Douglass monument at Chicago, has been passed by the Illinois senate. A similar bill having passed the house, the monument will now be completed—and an act of tardy justice done to the memory of a great man.

From the Illinois State Journal we learn that Superintendent Etter, in reply to inquiries, has written a letter to school directors, in which he takes the ground that parents may determine the studies their children shall pursue, and that, under the law, school boards and directors cannot expel students for not taking the full course of studies prescribed by them.

We have received the second issue of The Fruit-grower, a semi-monthly agricultural paper published at Anna, by T. F. Bouton and son. The paper is attractive in form, well printed and contains a large variety of matter interesting to the farmer, the fruit-grower, and people interested in any way in agricultural matters. Many of the communications are from the pens of Southern Illinois writers. The enterprise is a creditable one, and we trust the paper has entered on a long and prosperous career.

The commission, it seems, have "settled" the Louisiana difficulty in this way: They will tell all of Packard's legislature who have not already taken seats in the Nicholls house, to do so at once, or the troops will be withdrawn. All the members whose seats are contested will then withdraw, and the places will be filled by members conceded to have been elected by the commissioners of election. The assembly, as thus formed, will decide the contested cases. It will of course rule in the way in which Hayes will shut Packard out and send him and Warmoth on a foreign mission.

Among the curious incidents of the St. Louis conflagration was that which saved to Milton Nobles, the actor, a contract for an engagement with a Philadelphia manager. The paper, Mr. Nobles supposed, was consumed with his money and all his valuables in the fire. But on Friday morning, singed by fire and discolored by dirt and smoke, it was handed to its owner, by a gentleman who whose yard, a mile and a half from the scene of the disaster, it had been carried by a friendly breeze. A sheet of music, picked up two miles from the Southern, was found partly burned, the only complete copy of it being these lines: They boasted towers in smoky ruins; From this dread scene, ah! whither shall we fly?

AN INNOVATION IN THE SCHOOL ROOM.

We publish in another column an article from the Philadelphia Press, noting the introduction by a school teacher of Pittsburgh of a novel idea into the regular routine of daily instruction in a public school. Our people, always interested in everything of this character, will read it with pleasure. We think the idea an exceedingly good one; one that, under proper restrictions, adopted with judgment and discretion, might become a favorite and advantageous method of imparting practical instruction in the school room. The result of the daily lessons in the current news of the day, under the guidance of a wise teacher, would cover a larger area of knowledge than appears at first thought. For instance, the editor of the school newspaper gives space, more or less, among other "items," to the news concerning the threatened war in Europe; to understand this question properly the pupils will acquaint themselves with the geographical location of the countries involved; the sagacious teacher will stimulate inquiry as to the history of these countries, their rulers and forms of government. Much solid information, acquired in a manner that would fix it permanently in the minds of the pupils, would be gained in this way; more indeed, in a short period of time than could be obtained, under the routine system, in long weeks and months.

The same general idea, carried out as regards other current news of the day, would accomplish a like beneficial result: political news would excite inquiry as to the political history of our country; scientific and literary matters would awaken an interest in these.

The plan would not necessarily interfere with the regular classes, but, on the contrary, would add to the interest felt in them by teachers and pupils.

WORK FOR WOMEN.

The article on "Work for Women" published on our first page, will furnish food for thought to many of our readers. Not long ago, Wendell Phillips, in a public lecture objected to the public school system of this day because he said it turned boys and girls at the age of fifteen years over to their parents with no knowledge of any trade by which they might earn a livelihood. The objection, if it were true in fact, would be no argument against the public schools. But it is not true as applied to all schools, and the Cairo public schools furnish a notable exception. The New York Times, in the article mentioned, holds that telegraphy and phonography, arts that with proper application may be learned by all women, open two certain, acceptable and womanly ways in which they may earn their own livings. Those who have objected to these branches in our schools may say that Cairo has no large offices in which it is found necessary to use telegraphy and phonography to expedite business. This may be true, and but few of the girls who learn these arts in Cairo may find their knowledge to be of practical use here. But time, the vicissitudes of life and the necessity of circumstances will take many of them away from this city sooner or later and it is not a far-fetched supposition that some of them at some time may find their knowledge of telegraphy or telephony an acquisition that will serve for them the purpose that a man's knowledge of book-keeping or of any of the trades does for him.

A SPECIAL dispatch from Springfield to the St. Louis Republican of yesterday says the "board of railroad and warehouse commissioners on Friday made a decision as to the effect of the grain-storage laws of Illinois of great importance to all growers, shippers, and dealers. The facts of the case are that one Bullem, a maltster of Chicago, held receipts of an elevator company of that city for forty thousand bushels of No. 32 barley. When he presented these certificates he was delivered grain which another warehouse would receive only as No. 3 barley, and he appealed to the warehouse board of the state to make good the damage he thus sustained on the depreciation of his property. The board took the appeal into consideration and to-day decided that the elevator company which originally received the grain must be responsible. The board holds that as by the law of this state the elevator company which received the grain had the right to call a committee of appeals if it was not satisfied with the grade of the grain fixed upon by the state inspector, it cannot now refuse to deliver an equal quantity of grain of the same quality."

WASHINGTON.

The Louisiana Commission Unable to Agree on a Plan to Settle the Difficulty.

And Call on the President in Hand.

Packard Willing to Compromise While Nicholls Remains Firm in Defense of His Rights.

WASHINGTON, April 13.—The Louisiana commission, in their long cipher dispatch to the president, yesterday, circumstantially relate the result of their conference with both the Nicholls and Packard judges, the respective supreme courts, and other parties in interest. They say they find that the Nicholls party are not disposed to make any concessions, but will maintain their ground in the belief and hope that ultimately, as the Hampton case in South Carolina, they will have full and unobstructed possession of the Louisiana state government. The Packard party are ready to enter into an arrangement for a joint legislature to determine pending questions, but this being rejected by the Nicholls party, the Packard party ask the president to determine which is the legitimate government.

The president declines to act upon the request, as, under the present circumstances, he would not be justified in making a decision, owing to the disagreement between the Nicholls and Packard parties, and the unpromising prospect of an accommodation. The commissioners ask for further instructions, which will be sent after the cabinet session.

JURY FAILED TO AGREE.

The jury in the case of W. H. Oltman, charged with larceny of a \$7,000 package from the Treasury Department, and with receiving stolen money, after being out since 4:30 p. m. Tuesday last, failed to agree, and were this afternoon discharged until Monday morning. They reported that they were ready to give a verdict of not guilty on the first count but were unable to agree on the second count, eleven being for acquittal and the twelfth for conviction upon the charge of receiving stolen money.

The health of Representative Stephens of Georgia continues to improve. He speaks hopefully of the future of the country, and thinks the president will carry out his policy of peace and good will to the South. He believes that the solution of the South Carolina troubles, which has resulted in the pacification of that state and the restoration of home rule under Hampton, will lead to similar results in Louisiana by the recognition of the Nicholls government. The policy of the president, he thinks, will restore peace to all parts of the country.

A VISIT TO ENGLAND.

Sir Edward Thornton will visit England about the middle of May, and will be absent from this country several months. The trip is merely of a domestic character. His recent visit to Canada was for the purpose only of acting as umpire in the settlement of the Ontario boundary, and had no reference to the fishing question as reported.

billion at least, but the contractor must furnish all that may be required without reference to this estimate.

THE LOUISIANA CASE.

The cabinet adjourned without coming to any conclusion on the additional instructions to the commission. The subject will be resumed at the adjourned meeting perhaps to-morrow. It is not considered proper at present to give publicity to the contents of the telegram received yesterday, but it will be made public within a short time, in connection with such instructions as may be forwarded to the commission, there being now no nearer an approach to a settlement of the conflict in Louisiana than when the commission was appointed. The government experiences much embarrassment owing to the apparent impossibility of a compromise by the Packard and Nicholls parties.

MINOR NOTES.

The President to-day appointed John G. Casper, of Nevada, secretary of Arizona, and Jacob C. Bowman, associate justice of the supreme court of Utah.

George Fisher has been re-appointed surveyor of customs at Cairo, Ill. The commission of "Josie S. Lane" as postmaster at Danville, Ky., has been signed.

Senator Bayard, in company with Secretary Everts, called upon Hayes to-day.

THE POSTAGE STAMP.

How, When and Where It Originated.

The postage stamp was born in London on the 10th of January, 1840, and England employed it alone for ten years. France adopted it on the 1st of January, 1849, and Germany in 1850. According to Mr. Alphonse Esquiros, it was a curious incident that gave rise to the idea of postage stamps. A traveler was crossing, about forty years ago, a district in the north of England. He arrived at the door of an inn where a postman had stopped to deliver a letter. A young girl came out to receive it; she turned it over and over in her hand and asked the price of postage. This was a large sum, and evidently the girl was poor, for the postman demanded a shilling. She sighed sadly, and said the letter was from her brother, but that she had no money; and so she returned it to the postman. The traveler was a man who rambled about the earth for instruction and observation. Having a good heart, he offered to pay the postage of the letter, and in spite of the resistance of the young girl he paid the shilling. Her resistance made him reflect. Scarcely had the postman turned his back when the young inn-keeper's daughter confessed that it was a trick between her and her brother. Some signs marked on the letter had told her all she wanted to know, but the letter contained no writing.

"We are both so poor," she added, "and so we invented this mode of corresponding and paying for our letters."

The traveler, continuing his road, asked himself if a system giving place to such frauds was not a vicious one.

The sun had not set before Mr. Rowland Hill (that was the name of the traveler) had planned to organize the postal service upon a new basis. He saw that in England, where family ties are strong, and where the members of one live far apart, where, too, the spirit of commerce knows no limits, the correspondence was only limited by the cost of the post; and that by lowering this barrier, a great service would be rendered to society without hurting the resources of the treasury. These views were agreed to by the English government, and on the 10th of January, 1840, not more than a penny was paid for letters which circulated over the whole extent of the British empire. This had a happy result, and the number of letters increased from 1,500,000 to 7,239,962. Mr. Rowland Hill occupied in England the post of secretary to the postmaster general.

JOAQUIN MILLER'S EX-WIFE.

A writer in the San Francisco Post says: "Miss Minnie Myrtle had some reputation as a writer of both prose and poetry in her time, and considerable notoriety as the wife of the poet Joaquin Miller. She procured a divorce from him half a dozen or more years since, on the ground of his infidelity. The correspondence was only limited by the cost of the post; and that by lowering this barrier, a great service would be rendered to society without hurting the resources of the treasury. These views were agreed to by the English government, and on the 10th of January, 1840, not more than a penny was paid for letters which circulated over the whole extent of the British empire. This had a happy result, and the number of letters increased from 1,500,000 to 7,239,962. Mr. Rowland Hill occupied in England the post of secretary to the postmaster general."

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A GOOD IDEA.

Teaching Children the News of the Day in the School Room.

(From the Philadelphia Press.)

Miss Mitchell, teacher of the first grammar grade in the Washington school, Pittsburgh, Pa., has introduced a new and brilliant feature in her school

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exercises. It consists of a discussion of the news of the day between the pupils and the teacher, the first half of the morning being devoted to that exercise. The words, "The Bulletin," are drawn on the blackboards in large German text letters, and immediately below, in newspaper style, are headlines similar to those employed by newspapers in giving the points of the most important news, and then each headline is taken up by the school, and a general interchange of views takes place between the teacher and pupils.

The Bulletin is the daily paper of that room, and an editor is elected by the school every month, whose duty it is to examine the Pittsburgh papers every morning, and to write down on the blackboard, before school hours, the points of discussion, to give a headline resume of the news of the day, as it were, and if the editor exhibits capacity for the work entrusted to him, he is promoted to his high position. Of course the discussion does not take in news of every description, but only of the most interesting character. It includes the proceedings of congress, foreign news, editorial comments, local news, etc. The exercise is regarded as part of their school work, and is entered into by every pupil with the greatest possible interest, and many of them whose parents cannot read, purchase a paper every morning and study its entire contents, just as they do their grammar, their geography, and arithmetic. By means of the Bulletin every scholar learns the important news of the day, and is enabled to understand the various great questions which agitate the public mind. The value of an exercise of this kind is beyond description, and it is hoped that it will soon become an established custom in every public school in this country.

Social Games at the White House.—(From the New York World.)

Cards are still played at the white house, though the "allurements of draw-poker played with all its pristine ferocity do not fascinate our national president who delights rather in the more innocent excitement of "old maid" and "beggar my neighbor." The other evening they were making up a party, but had only secured three players, when one of their number called heedlessly and perhaps innocently to Mr. Hayes: "Mr. President, shall we count you in?" An awkward silence succeeded, and Mr. Hayes turned red as fire, but Mr. Schurz seated himself at the piano and played some from the "Battle of Prague," and diverted the attention of the company till Senator Stanley Matthews and Mr. Charles Foster had removed the unfortunate individual and crucified him.

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At last, good wife, a minute I have first a word to say to you. Mother, 'tis our wedding day! Just as now, we sat at supper when the guests had gone away; You sat at that side, I sat at this side, Forty years ago to-day!

Then what plans we laid together! What fine things I meant to do! Could we dream to-day would do as At this table—me and you?

Better so, no doubt—and yet I— Sometimes think—I cannot tell! Had our boys—ah, yes! I know, dear; Yes, both of them—ah, things well!

Well, we've had our joys and sorrows, Shared our smiles as well as tears; And the best of all—I've had your Faithful love for forty years!

Poor wife, but not forsaken; Grief we've known, but never shame— Father, thy mother's nerves! Still we bless Thy Holy name!

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